

Message Text

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73

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 DLOS-07 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

AGR-20 CG-00 DOTE-00 L-03 H-03 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 DRC-01 /107 W

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R 201856Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6023

UNCLAS NASSAU 1651

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, BF

SUBJECT: SPINEY LOBSTER AS CREATURE OF SHELF: GCOB JUSTIFIED
LEGISLATION

REF: NASSAU 1627

1. GCOB GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE HAS PLACED ARTICLES
IN LOCAL MEDIA JUSTIFYING SUBJECT LEGISLATION (NOTE: HOUSE
OF ASSEMBLY DID NOT REACH BILL SEPT 18 BUT IS EXPECTED
TO PASS IT SEPT 25, FOLLOWING WHICH IT WILL GO TO SENATE
FOR PASSAGE AND TO GOVERNOR-GENERAL FOR SIGNATURE).

2. JUSTIFICATION, ADMITTING THAT STATISTICS ARE "INCOMPLETE"
ALLEGES THAT 30 MILLION POUNDS OF SPINEY LOBSTER WERE LANDED
IN FLORIDA PORTS SINCE 1964, WHICH INDICATES THAT BAHAMA
BANKS ARE BEING FISHED QUOTE AT A RATE WHICH MUST BE DEPLETING
THE BAHAMIAN LOBSTER STOCK AND CAUSING SERIOUS CONCERN TO
THE FISHING INDUSTRY OF THE BAHAMAS UNQUOTE. ALTHOUGH
LEGISLATION WOULD BAR QUOTE FOREIGN FISHERMEN FROM SOME OF
THE MOST LUCRATIVE LOBSTER GROUNDS IN WHAT IS NOW REGARDED
AS INTERNATIONAL WATERS, IT IS NOT EXPECTED TO BRING ABOUT
A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE BAHAMAS AND FLORIDA BASED
COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN SINCE THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES
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THE RIGHTS OF THE BAHAMAS TO EXERCISE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION

OVER ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF UNQUOTE.

3. GCOB JUSTIFICATION BASES LATTER ASSERTION ON (A) U.S.
ACCEPTANCE OF SEDENTARY SPECIES PORTION OF ARTICLE 2(4) OF 1958
GENEVA CONVENTION ON CONTINENTAL SHELF AND (B) LAST JANUARY'S
U.S. DOMESTIC LEGISLATION CONCERNING HOMARIS AMERICANUS.
ON US LEGISLATION, JUSTIFICATION QUOTES FROM HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE REPORT ACCOMPANYING BILL THE
OBSERVATION THAT QUOTE ALTHOUGH IT IS ARGUED SUCH A DECLARATION
MIGHT TRIGGER OTHER NATIONS IN TAKING SIMILAR ACTIONS WITH
RESPECT TO SUCH SPECIES AS THE SPINEY LOBSTER AND SHRIMP --
SPECIES THAT HAVE SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS AND SPECIES WHICH
AMERICAN FISHERMEN TAKE OFF FOREIGN SHORES -- THIS IS A
RISK THAT WE WILL HAVE TO TAKE IF WE EXPECT TO SAVE THIS
FISHERY FROM DECIMATION UNQUOTE.
RIDGWAY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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